

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I am supporting the amendment, although Senator Hall did just ask me on the floor here a question of some potential impact the amendment may have, and I will be looking forward to his discussion with the introducers of it. The general thrust of the amendment I think is good. The bill still, LB 100, will state that it is a state policy that school...the children, young people should be staying in school until they are eighteen or until such time as they receive their degree, or their equivalency diploma, but this amendment allows a safety valve for those school districts that genuinely cannot provide internally for those kids, the students that may have a special circumstance that are not allowed to stay in school. It allows that safety valve. So I think it is probably, the bill, LB 100, I think was a strong step forward. The amendment takes us back a little bit but probably back in a direction in which we do need to go. So I am going to be supporting the amendment. I think it goes a long way toward meeting the needs of the people who, on General File, did raise the issues, and I would urge you to support this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam President, members of the body, I also will support the amendment. I have one question for Senator Bohlke.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: The last...last sentence there, work-study projects or similar appropriate options. Does this leave this entirely up to the discretion of the board, administrators and the parents or guardian of this child to work out other option?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Janssen, not the board, the administration, not the board. Yes, to work out similar other options is in there, so those school districts that may not have a program that would fall into this category. You know, take an example of, say, a particular situation where they just wanted to send the program home and let that student be at home for a certain amount of time and do their work, this would allow that. It just gives a little more flexibility and doesn't streamline it so much that school districts wouldn't have some options as